What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for retrieving an audio application attachment to an electronic mail message

2 ("email"), the method comprising:

3   establishing a telephone call with a user connecting to an audio web telephone system

4 using a telephony device;

5   processing a command from the user to enable the user to retrieve an email from a buffer

6 location accessible to the audio web telephone system;

7   detecting an audio application attachment to the email;

8   passing the audio application attachment to an audio browser;

9   executing the audio application attachment by processing Voice XML code within the

10 audio application attachment and generating an audio message; and

11   providing the audio message to the user via the telephony device.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising identifying a sender of the email having the

2 audio application attachment prior to executing the Voice XML statements of the attachment.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the step of identifying further comprises reviewing a list

2 of senders.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising requesting the user's permission prior to

2 executing the audio application attachment.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a profile of the user to a sender of

2 the email.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of establishing a phone call further comprises:

2   receiving a circuit-switched signal from the telephony device used by the user over a

3 public switched telephone network ("PSTN");

4   converting the circuit-switched signal to a telephony packet protocol signal including an

5 audio portion;

6   converting the telephony packet protocol signal to an Internet protocol ("IP") packet

7 signal including an audio portion;

8   converting the audio portion of the IP packet signal to a text equivalent signal; and

9   converting the text equivalent signal to an IP network command signal.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of establishing further comprises originating, by

2 the user a phone call to the audio web telephone system.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of establishing further comprises originating, by

2 the audio web telephone system a phone call to the user.

1 9. A method of retrieving an audio application attachment from a web-based document, the

2 method comprising:

3   establishing a telephone call with a user of an audio web telephone system using a

4 telephony device to request access to a web-based document;

5   determining an audio application attachment to the web-based document;

6   transmitting the audio application attachment to an audio browser;

7   executing the audio application attachment by processing the Voice XML code within the

8 audio application and generating an audio message; and

9   providing the audio message to the user via the telephony device.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of establishing a phone call further comprises:

2   receiving a circuit-switched signal from a telephony device used by the user over a public

3 switched telephone network ("PSTN");

4   converting the circuit-switched signal to a telephony packet protocol signal including an

5 audio portion;

6   converting the telephony packet protocol signal to an Internet protocol ("IP") packet

7 signal including an audio portion;

8   converting the audio portion of the IP packet signal to a text equivalent signal; and

9   converting the text equivalent signal to an IP network command signal.

1   11.   The method of claim 9 wherein the step of establishing further comprises originating, by

2 the user a phone call to the audio web telephone system.

1   12.   The method of claim 9 wherein the step of establishing further comprises originating, by

2 the audio web telephone system a phone call to the user.

1   13.   An audio web telephone system for retrieving an audio application attachment from an

2 electronic mail message ("email") or from a web-based document, the system comprising:

3   a telephony gateway in communication with a public switched telephone network

4 ("PSTN"), the telephony gateway configured to receive a telephone call from a user using a

5 telephony device;

6   an Internet protocol ("IP") network; and

7   an audio browser comprising:

8   a content retrieval module in communication with the IP network, the content

9   retrieval module configured to detect an audio application attachment from one of an

10   email and a web-based document;

11   a VXML browser in communication with the IP network, the VXML browser

12   configured to execute the audio application attachment by processing Voice XML code

13   within the audio application attachment and generating an audio message; and

14   a telephony interface module in communication with the telephony gateway for

15   communicating with a telephony device of the user and in communication with an IP

16   network to receive the audio message, the telephony interface configured to translate an

17   IP based signal of the audio message to a telephony packet-based signal of the audio

18   message, thereby providing the audio message to the user via the telephony device.

1   14.   The system of claim 13 further comprising an authentication module in communication

2   with the IP network, the authentication module having a list of trusted senders.

1   15.   The system of claim 13 further comprising web cache.

1   16.   The system of claim 13 wherein the audio browser further comprises a navigation

2   module.

1   17.   The system of claim 16 wherein the navigation module further comprises one of speech

2   recognition module and touch tone (DTMF) recognition module.

1   18.   The system of claim 13 wherein the content retrieval module further comprises one of

2   text-to-speech module and streaming media module.